METROPOLITAN SURVEY.—A public meeting of the Surveyors' Association was held at the Western Literary and Scientific Institution, Leicester-square, on Wednesday evening, Mr. James Wyld, M.P., in the chair, when a series of resolutions were unanimously passed, deprecating the interference or employment of the Board of Ordnance and its Sappers and Miners, in the lawful civil calling of the association, and in the civil surveys of the country, and particularly at present in the metropolitan survey; and appealing to the public for countenance and support even on economical grounds. The estimated expense of the military survey of the metropolis over and above the usual salaries and expenses of the corps, in place of amounting to a comparative trifle, was said to be no less than about double the whole estimate tendered by the association, but rejected, though ample security was offered; while it was also pointed out that the military estimate, not being a binding or responsible one, was worse than worthless, the real expense of the like military survey of the comparatively small district of the city and dependencies of Dublin, already incurred, being upwards of 200,000*l.*,—and yet but a tenth part of what might fairly be estimated as the probable ultimate expense of their metropolitan survey. The meeting was ably and warmly addressed by the Chairman, who assured them of strong support in the Commons, and by various other gentlemen who accompanied him to the hall, by members of the association, rate-payers, local authorities, &c. Mr. Clout entered into a minute detail connected with the expense and nature of the Ordnance surveys, shewing not only that the actual charges and expenses far exceeded the estimates,—as at Southampton, where hundreds of pounds were augmented into thousands,—but that the expense of, and the time occupied with, the national surveys, were rapidly, immensely, and inexplicably on the increase, even in districts most favourable for survey. Attention was also pointedly drawn to the great impropriety of suspending the national military survey itself, as intended, and, indeed, necessary and unavoidable, should the Sappers and Miners be allowed to amuse themselves for an indefinite time with a survey in the metropolis, while complaints and petitions were already so frequently made against their past and present procrastination in the provinces.

CAREFUL THOUGH NOT CORRECT.—We have received the following copy of a genuine letter from a churchwarden in Surrey to a well-known antiquary, who had requested the loan of a brass monumental plate in his church to make a drawing of it:—"Sir, I am sorry I can't be agreeable to what you ax me to do, but by the canonical laws nobody must not presume to let nothing out of the church, particularly the sacred utensils, under pain of blasphemy; therefore can't let you have the brass tombstone you desire; but you are welcome to come into the church, and draw it as much as you plaze."

THE GUTTA PERCHA TRADE at Singapore is becoming of so much importance that the native rulers of Johore have attempted to monopolize it, by intercepting the boats loaded with it and compelling the owners to pass it through their hands at some arbitrary price; so that 9-10ths of the whole are thus unnecessarily taxed before reaching Singapore, and the Chamber of Commerce there have appealed to the authorities on behalf of a source of traffic which now yields between 10,000 and 12,000 piculs, valued at from 150,000 dollars to 200,000 dollars per annum.

BURNING OF A BUILDER'S PREMISES.—The premises of Mr. G. Cooper, carpenter and builder, in George-street, New Peckham, were destroyed by fire a few days ago, by which a loss of several thousand pounds has been incurred. The origin of the fire is not known. Every such disaster should serve as a warning, and induce care on the part of those who look after the glue-pots in large establishments.

IMPROVEMENT OF BILLINGSGATE MARKET.—The report of the Markets' Committee, on the enlargement, &c., of Billingsgate Market, at a cost of 15,000*l.*, has been unanimously agreed to by the Common Council, and the report ordered to be printed. Mr. H. L. Taylor remarked that the alteration would amply repay the proposed expenditure on this 'crying evil and disgrace to the city.'

THE BRITTON CLUB.—On Tuesday a dinner was given to this club by Mr. Gould, F.S.A., the treasurer of the Britton Testimonial Fund, and included Mr. John Barrow, Captain Beecher, Mr. Britton, Mr. Sheriff Cubitt, M.P., Mr. P. Cunningham, Mr. Grissell, Mr. Godwin, Mr. W. Jerdan, Mr. Sheriff Hill, Capt. Hood, Mr. Makinley, Dr. Roots, Capt. Smyth, R.N., Lieut. Waghorn, Mr. Wansey, &c. The previous dinner was given by Mr. L. C. Humphrey, Q.C. Mr. Britton's last bantling, "Junius Elucidated," has just issued, and appears vigorous and healthful.

THE NEW STEAM BASIN AT PORTSMOUTH was opened on Thursday week with great eclat by her Majesty and Prince Albert, who entered it with the royal yacht tender, when Colonel Irvine, C.B., the chief director of engineering and architectural works, by the royal command placed the last stone in its position. The entire cost of this work, which has been executed, under the immediate superintendence of Captain H. James, R.E., by Mr. P. Rolt, as contractor, has, up to the present time, been 400,000*l.* The basin will accommodate nine first class frigates. It was begun on 10th June, 1843, and the first stone was laid on 15th January, 1845. The average mean length is 774 feet; width 400 feet; depth from coping 31 feet; area about 7¼ acres. The entrance is 80 feet wide. There are two inlets 300 feet long and 70 wide, and a graving dock 300 by 80. A storehouse 687 feet long, 48 feet wide, and 51 feet high, and a brass foundry 110 feet by 90, with various other buildings, such as mills, smitheries, &c., have also been erected. The quantity of granite, Portland, and Purbec stone used in the construction is 1,155,208 cubic feet; of bricks 7,696,000 cubic feet; of memel and beech timber 735,700 cubic feet: excavations removed 959,500 tons; clay for dam 25,000 tons. Average number of men employed 1,500: quarriers and conveyers of material 1,000. After the ceremonial of the opening was concluded, 1,050 of Mr. Rolt's workmen and 2,185 of the dockyard men were provided with dinner on the premises.

THE MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES for the year ending March 31, 1849, as laid before Parliament, comprise, amongst other items, that of "Public Works and Buildings," to which it was proposed to appropriate 483,976*l.* (against 589,253*l.* in 1847-8); 120,923*l.* of this sum to public buildings and royal palaces, 30,000*l.* to the enlargement of Buckingham Palace, 8,410*l.* to the Palm House at Kew, 4,234*l.* to the expenses of the temporary Houses of Parliament, 120,000*l.* to those of the new Houses of Parliament, 21,300*l.* to the Insolvent Debtors' Court, 4,950*l.* to Courts of Law in the Isle of Man, 12,792*l.* to Holyhead Harbour, 131,000*l.* to harbours of refuge, 23,167*l.* to public buildings, &c. in Ireland, and 8,100*l.* to Kingstown Harbour. The sums applied to the encouragement and promotion of education, science, and art, estimate 397,520*l.* (against 351,243*l.* in 1847, and 325,908*l.* in 1846), included 99,249*l.* to the British Museum, 1,500 to the National Gallery, 10,788*l.* to the Museum of Practical Geology and Geological Survey, 5,627*l.* to scientific works and experiments, and 2,000*l.* to the completion of the Nelson Monument. The following, among other votes, have since been agreed to in the Commons:—20,000*l.* towards defraying the expense of buildings and repairs; 25,000*l.* towards the new Houses of Parliament; 10,000*l.* towards enlarging Buckingham Palace; 14,000*l.* towards the expenses of the Board of Public Works in Ireland; 3,000*l.* for the School of Design and to aid provincial schools.

SMALL PIPE DRAINAGE.—Sir: Cardiff Union Workhouse is built to contain 250 persons. It is now being drained with glazed earthenware pipes, 6-inch bore, the distance being 2,350 feet, having a fall of 5 feet 3 inches in the whole length, or a quarter of an inch in 10 feet. Twenty privies empty themselves into this pipe, and all the water and slops from the whole house and yards go into this pipe. There is a tank, 10 feet square by 10 feet deep, fixed 8 feet above the ground, and supplied by a pump, as a force to scour the same upon stated times. I, and other ratepayers, want an opinion upon the above system of draining, as to the probability of its answering the purposes intended. A.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—Mr. Francis Wishaw, C.E., has registered his design for the 'telekouphenon,' or pneumatic telegraph. If the proposal to telegraph through water-pipes prove successful (by the bye, how will the precise locality of leakage be detected?), we should not wonder to hear of a proposal to send written slips of paper themselves through tubes exhausted of air by the air-pump, and thus to save at once all signs and symbols, all interpretations and transcriptions. Such a telegraphic *converser* might prove occasionally a little 'asthmatic,' or stammer and stutter now and then as the words went through the wind-pipe, but doubtless its defects might at length be oratorically doctored.

GLASS WATER-PIPES.—The Town Council of Plymouth have resolved on laying down glass pipes for the supply of water to the town. The average duration of pipes made of cast-iron is about ten years, it is said; while glass is not liable to corrosion or abrasion at all, and will thus, it is calculated, more than repay its original cost.

CONVERSAZIONE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERS.—On Tuesday evening last Mr. Field, the president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, received the members, his own friends, and other men distinguished in science, art, and literature, at the society's house in Great George-street. The attendance was very numerous; there were many models and machines of various kinds to engage the attention of his visitors, and make the evening instructive as well as gratifying.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, Nelson-street, Bermondsey, lately consecrated, has been erected at a cost of about 5,400*l.* It is of course in the pointed style, with accommodation for 1,200 persons, and a school attached. It is the first built from the Southwark Church Erection Fund, partially assisted by grants from Government and the Church Commissioners. Two other churches are now nearly completed, from the same funds, viz., St. Stephen's, in Kent-street, and Christ Church, at Dockhead.

SCHOOL OF DESIGN, SOMERSET HOUSE. The lectures which are proceeding here are well attended. On the 5th ult. Mr. H. J. Townsend lectured on the "Anatomy of the Human Head," and on the 26th ult. Mr. R. Burchett lectured on the "Studies of the Section of Free-hand Drawing in the Class of Form."

TENDERS.

For extension of goods warehouses at Petley-street, for the Eastern Counties Railway: Mr. H. A. Hunt, architect:—

Jackson	£11,956
Messrs. Lucas	11,831
Messrs. Baker	11,617
Messrs. Cubitt	11,380
Hicks	11,000
Messrs. Piper	10,970
Messrs. Little and Son	10,943
Grimsdell	10,467
Messrs. Curtis	10,384
Jay	9,413

For the Greek church to be built in London-wall: Mr. Owen, architect:—

Kelk	£6,181
W. Cubitt and Co.	6,130
Piper	5,978
Lee	5,650
Grimsdell	5,343
Jay	5,230

For a house at Sunbury, Middlesex: Mr. Richard Trees architect:—

Dove	£2,089
Aunell	2,081
Cooper	2,028
Bliss	2,012
Patience	1,918
Higgs	1,849
Patrick	1,819
Pollock and McLellan	1,775
Underhill	1,740
Glen	1,596
Taylor (Sunbury)	1,487

For enlarging the Women's Infirmary at the St. Pancras Workhouse:—

Burton	£1,131
Dove	1,020
Pilbeam	997
Judd	977
Higgs	957
Cooper	949
Pollock and McLellan	937
Crane (accepted)	887

For the new West London Synagogue of British Jews, in Margaret-street, Cavendish-square: Mr. D. Mocatta, architect:—

Jackson	£2,543	0
Mansfield and Sons	2,301	0
Lindsey	2,296	0
Armstrong and Smith	2,252	10
Grimsdell	1,945	0

For the Epping new church: Mr. Butterfield, architect:—

Kelk	6,026
Ashby	6,671
Hayward and Co.	6,330
Curtis	6,094

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